

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 16 and 18 remain in the case. Claims 17, 19 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND 103

Claims 14 and 15 have been rejected as being anticipated by Jalbert ("US 4,513,518") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claim 16 has been rejected as being obvious over Jalbert and Mardix ("US 5,958,546"). Claims 18 and 19 have been rejected as being obvious over Jalbert and Goldman ("US 5,775,332").

Claims 17 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form by including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, solely to expedite prosecution, Claim 14 has been amended to include all the subject matter of Claim 17. Claim 18 has been amended to include all the subject matter of Claims 14, 19 and 20.

Applicant asserts that Claim 14 and 18 are therefore in condition for allowance. Claims 15 and 16, which are dependent from Claim 14 should be also be allowable. The rejections against Claims 17, 19 and 20 are moot as these claims have been cancelled.

The rejections of the original claims are believed to have been overcome. From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such an action is earnestly solicited.

Authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account no. 07-1742 for any deficiencies or overages in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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